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(54) Method and apparatus for synchronizing firmware

(57) The invention is a method and apparatus for synchronizing firmware associated with a first computer device and a second computer device, such as a server and a client computer. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the method comprises the steps of providing information regarding a characteristic of the firmware associated with the first and second devices, comparing the provided firmware information to determine if the firmware is synchronized, and associating

new firmware with the second device to synchronize the firmware if the firmware is found to not be synchronized in the comparing step. In one or more embodiments of the invention, the firmware associated with the second device is not modified unless the integrity of the firmware to be installed on the second device is verified using a digital signature.

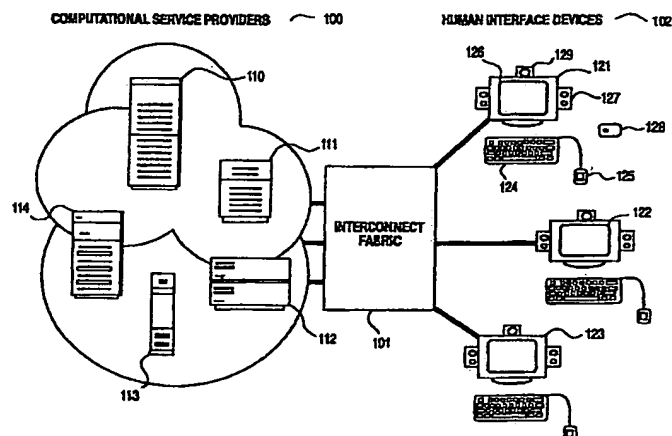


FIG. 1



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 December 2000	Examiner Bijn, K
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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